

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /071 W
-----011699 081006Z /10

P R 080901Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3386
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
/CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8033

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG GOES ON HUNGER STRIKE

1. MYONGDONG PRISONER KIM TAE-CHUNG BEGAN HUNGER STRIKE ON
SEPTEMBER 5. STRIKE EVIDENTLY TOUCHED OFF BY TRANSFER OF
KIM FROM ONE ROOM OF SNU HOSPITAL TO ANOTHER.

2. A STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN KIM'S NAME WHICH LISTED
THREE BASIC DEMANDS: A) IMMEDIATE RETURN TO PRISON;
B) FREEDOM TO RECEIVE ALL TYPES OF READING MATERIALS, TO
WRITE AND RECEIVE LETTERS FREELY, AND TO RECEIVE VISITS
FROM ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS; C) CESSATION OF ROKG
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AND PERSECUTION OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS,
STATEMENT CHARGED THAT ROKG IS FORCIBLY DETAINING KIM IN
HOSPITAL ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT
THERE. IT ALSO NOTED THAT KIM WAS SUFFERING DUE TO LACK
OF EXERCISE AND SUNLIGHT.

3. FORMER MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT
CALLING FOR RELEASE OF KIM AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.
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KNCC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORTS THAT IT HAS RECEIVED
WORD THAT PEOPLE IN WEST GERMANY, JAPAN AND THE UNITED
STATES HAVE ALREADY JOINED HUNGER STRIKE IN
SYMPATHY WITH KIM'S DEMANDS.

4. ON DAY BEFORE START OF HUNGER STRIKE, ONE OF KIM
TAE-CHUNG'S SECRETARIES INFORMED EMBOFF THAT KIM WAS

ENJOYING EXCELLENT HEALTH, THAT MR. KIM VISITED HIM
TWICE A DAY BRINGING HOME-COOKED MEALS TO HIM FOR LUNCH
AND SUPPER. SECRETARY NOTED THAT KIM'S CIRCLE HAD
BEEN INFORMED THAT NEW ROOM HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR KIM
AND THAT THEY FELT THIS WAS SIGN THAT ROKG PLANNED
TO HOLD KIM INDEFINITELY. HOWEVER, SNU HOSPITAL IS
PREPARING TO MOVE TO NEW BUILDING, AND IT MAY BE THAT
TRANSFER OF KIM TO NEW ROOM RELATED TO PREPARATIONS FOR
MOVE OF HOSPITAL AS A WHOLE. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW
DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.
GLEYSTEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, MALNUTRITION, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL08033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-1224
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780988/aaaacumq.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4331054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1502114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM TAE-CHUNG GOES ON HUNGER STRIKE
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS, (KIM TAE-CHUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4331054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014